



EDUCATION SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL Requirements for Teachers Prepared Outside of California

California has a two-tier credential structure. A five-year Level I credential is the first document issued after an individual meets basic credential requirements. Level II is the professional clear credential when all credential requirements have been completed.

The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to teach in the area of specialization listed on the credential in the following settings:

1. Special day classes
2. Special schools
3. Home/hospital settings
4. Correctional facilities
5. Nonpublic schools and agencies
6. Resource rooms

Areas of Specialization

- *Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M)*
Includes specific learning disabilities; mild to moderate mental retardation; attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S)*
Includes autism; deaf-blindness; moderate to severe mental retardation; multiple disabilities; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)*
Includes deafness; hearing impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Visual Impairments (VI)*
Includes blindness; visual impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Physical and Health Impairments (PHI)*
Includes orthopedic impairment; other health impairment; multiple disabilities; traumatic brain injury; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)*
Includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities listed above, and authorizes service to children ages birth to prekindergarten only.

Education Specialist teachers who completed their professional preparation outside of California **may apply directly to the Commission** for their initial credentials. The credentialing process in California is made up of a sequence of requirements, which the teacher is given up to five years to complete. Teachers receiving the preliminary credential are making a commitment to complete the process and obtain the professional clear credential. Applicants may apply directly to the Commission for this credential by submitting an application (form 41-4), fingerprint clearance materials, transcripts, other requested materials and current fees.

The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of **five years**. If requirements for the professional clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder will be unable to teach in California's public schools with that credential until those requirements are met and the document renewed.

- *California has five options for qualification for an out-of-state trained Education Specialist. Review each of the five options to determine which is the best option for you*

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Option 1

Out-of-State Trained Applicants with Five or More Years of Out-of-State Teaching Experience

Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Teachers prepared outside of California who verify five years or more of full-time teaching experience in another state or U.S. Territory in the subject area of the credential sought, may qualify for a California teaching credential by documenting **all** of the following:

1. Baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. A professional preparation program in special education completed outside of California, consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, including completion of a supervised field study with a grade of “C” or better
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential from another state
4. Five years or more of full-time teaching experience (See Terms and Definitions on page 4) in the subject of the credential sought
5. Evidence of rigorous performance evaluations (See Terms and Definitions on page 4) on which the applicant received a rating of “satisfactory” or better

Requirements for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals will need to complete **all** of the following to qualify for the Level II:

1. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) during the first year of certification. CBEST must be passed within one year of the issuance date of the preliminary credential in order for the holder to be eligible to continue teaching. (See California Basic Educational Skills Test leaflet CL-667 for more details.)
2. Possess the Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential based on five or more years of teaching experience
3. Complete 150 clock hours of activities that contribute to the individual’s teaching competence, performance, effectiveness, and that assist the applicant in meeting or exceeding standards for professional preparation established by the Commission (These activities must be documented on CCTC form CL-820A and verified by the employer’s director of curriculum and instruction in the subject area listed on the credential. See the Commission’s website for this form.)

Option 2

Out-of-State Trained Applicants with Three or Four Years of Out-of-State Teaching Experience

Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Teachers prepared outside of California who verify three years or four years of full-time teaching experience in another state or U.S. Territory in the subject area of the credential sought may qualify for a California teaching credential by documenting **all** of the following:

1. Baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. A professional preparation program in special education completed outside of California, consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, including completion of a supervised field study with a grade of “C” or better
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential from another state
4. Three or four years of full-time teaching experience (See Terms and Definitions on page 4) in the subject of the credential sought
5. Evidence of rigorous performance evaluations (See Terms and Definitions on page 4) on which the applicant received a rating of “satisfactory” or better

Requirements for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals will need to complete **all** of the following to qualify for the Level II:

1. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) during the first year of certification. CBEST must be passed within one year of the issuance date of the preliminary credential in order for the holder

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to be eligible to continue teaching. (See California Basic Educational Skills Test leaflet CL-667 for more details.)

2. Holds the Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential based on three or four years of teaching experience
3. Complete a two year Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) induction program, documented by a letter signed by the employer's BTSA program director on the employer's official letterhead (See Terms and Definitions on Page 5.)

Option 3

Out-of-State Applicants Who Have Completed a Program in a State Determined to have Equivalent Standards

Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. A professional preparation program in special education completed on or after January 1, 1997 from a state determined to have equivalent standards to the California Education Specialist Credential. (Verified by either a copy of the certificate from the equivalent state or eligibility letter from the institution where the program was completed or the state agency responsible for issuing the certificate.) The out-of-state special education program must be in the specialization area of the Education Specialist Instruction Credential requested. See Table 4 [on page 7] to determine which state and specific areas of specialization have been accredited for this option.
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential from another state

Requirements for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals will need to complete **all** of the following to qualify for the Level II:

1. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) during the first year of certification. CBEST must be passed within one year of the issuance date of the preliminary credential in order for the holder to be eligible to continue teaching. (See California Basic Educational Skills Test leaflet CL-667 for more details.)
2. Holds the Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential from a state determined to have an equivalent standard
3. Complete a Level II Education Specialist Program at a California college or university with a Commission-accredited program (See Table 2 on page 5 and Table 3 on page 6.)

Option 4

Out-of-State Trained Applicants with Less than Three Years of Out-of-State Teaching Experience or from a State without Equivalent Standards

Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Teachers must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. A professional preparation program in special education completed outside of California, consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, including completion of a supervised field study with a grade of "C" or better
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential from another state

Requirements for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals will need to complete **all** of the following to qualify for the Level II:

1. CBEST – pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) during the first year of certification. CBEST must be passed within one year of the issuance date of the preliminary credential in order for the holder to be eligible to continue teaching. (See California Basic Educational Skills Test leaflet CL-667 for more details)
2. Holds the Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

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3. English Language Skills – complete a course in Developing English Language Skills, including Reading, that is research-based and includes the study of phonemic awareness, spelling patterns, early intervention techniques, ongoing diagnostic techniques and a strong literature, language, and comprehension component (Submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes.)
4. U.S. Constitution – **one** of the following requirements must be satisfied:
 - a. complete a course (at least two semester units or three quarter units) in the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution (Submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes.)
 - b. pass an examination in the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution given by a regionally-accredited junior college, community college, college, or university
 - c. meet the interstate agreement to satisfy the U.S. Constitution requirement (See Table 1 on page 5.)
5. Subject Matter Competence – **one** of the following requirements must be satisfied:
 - a. achieve a passing score by either passing an appropriate subject matter examination as specified in Verifying Subject-Matter Competence (Multiple Subject Teaching Credential) leaflet CL-674M, or by passing the required subject-matter examination(s) for a single subject area, as specified in Verifying Subject-Matter Competence (Single Subject Teaching Credential) leaflet CL-674S
 - b. complete a Commission-approved subject-matter competence program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an accredited program (California colleges and universities may have recency requirements that have to be met before a subject-matter statement can be granted.)

Verification of Subject-Matter Competence is **not required** for the area of Early Childhood Special Education.
6. Non-Special Education Pedagogy – complete at least three semester units in non-special education pedagogy related to teaching basic academic skills and content areas
7. Field experience with non-special education – **one** of the following requirements must be satisfied:
 - a. complete at least one semester unit of supervised field experience with non-special education students, verified by transcript
 - b. complete 45 clock hours with non-special education students, verified by your employer
8. Level II – complete a Level II Education Specialist Program at a California college or university with a Commission-accredited program (See Table 2 on page 5.)

Course Work Submitted for a Credential

An applicant must have an overall grade point average of “C” or better on a five-point scale in all course work offered toward fulfillment of credential requirements. Continuing education units (CEU’s) are not acceptable to fulfill credential requirements. A course description or a letter from the appropriate department chairperson verifying the content of the course work should be enclosed with the credential application for any specific course requirement — Develop English Language Skills, including Reading, U.S. Constitution, non-special education pedagogy, and supervised field experience.

Terms and Definitions

Full-time Teaching Experience: This experience must be full-time teaching; no part-time or a combination of teaching and other school employment will be accepted. All experience must be gained in regionally-accredited public schools or regionally accredited private schools in states or U.S. Territories other than California. This experience must be verified by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, or director of personnel on the official letterhead of the district or districts where you were employed.

Rigorous Performance Evaluations: Copies of two years of full-time teaching performance evaluations must be submitted with written verification of their authenticity by a personnel officer in the district where the evaluations took place. At least one of the evaluations must have been conducted within the last two years of teaching. Evaluation ratings must be “satisfactory” or better.

The teaching effectiveness areas on the performance evaluation must include, but are not limited to the following:

- The use of teaching strategies that motivate all students to engage in the learning process

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- The ability to establish and maintain high standards for student behavior
- A demonstration of deep knowledge of the subject taught and the use of appropriate instructional strategies that promote student understanding
- An ability to plan and implement a sequence of appropriate instructional activities

► *If these areas are not included in the evaluation, the applicant would **not** qualify under these requirements*

The Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program: This is an organized program, which meets the induction option. There are planned events (assignments/assessments/reviews) during the program, but the activities between those events are individualized to meet the teacher's needs. The BTSA program involves basic teaching strategies and advanced issues, including California's curriculum standards and language and cultural diversity in California, which may be of benefit to any teacher new to the state.

Reference: California Education Code, Sections 44227, 44274, 44274.1, 44275.3, and 44275.4, and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 80422

OPTION 5

Out-of-State Trained Applicants with National Board for Professional Teaching Standard Certification

Teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will be issued a professional clear teaching credential in the subject area in which they have received national certification. (See Table 5 on page 8) Individuals meeting this option are exempt from CBEST and all other credential requirements.

Requirements for a Professional Clear Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals may apply directly to the Commission for a professional clear teaching credential by submitting an application (form 41-4) and current application fee with documentation of **all** of the following:

1. Copy of National Board Certification
2. Character and Identification Clearance (form 41-CIC), if not already on file with the Commission
3. Copy of Livescan Service (form 41-LS) receipt or two fingerprint cards (form FD-258), if not already on file with the Commission

TABLES

Table 1

States Having Interstate Agreements with California as of April 1, 1997

Applicants who meet the Interstate Agreement are considered to have successfully completed the U.S. Constitution requirement. The Interstate Agreement does not clear any of the other California requirements.

Alabama	Idaho	Nevada	Rhode Island
Arizona	Illinois	New Hampshire	South Carolina
Arkansas	Indiana	New Jersey	Tennessee
Colorado	Kentucky	New Mexico	Texas
Connecticut	Maine	New York	Utah
Delaware	Maryland	North Carolina	Vermont
District of Columbia	Massachusetts	Ohio	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Oklahoma	Washington
Georgia	Mississippi	Oregon	West Virginia
Hawaii	Montana	Pennsylvania	

Table 2

Requirements for the Professional Clear Level II Credential

Applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Complete an individualized induction plan designed in collaboration with your employer and a California college or university with a Commission-accredited education specialist program in the area listed on your Preliminary Level I credential (See Table 3 on page 6). This plan will include academic requirements applicable to all Level II candidates, as well as individualized studies and consultations focusing on your specific needs and employment assignment. This plan may contain up to 25 percent nonuniversity-based activities, if approved by the college or university administering the program.

2. Complete a course in Health Education, including, but not limited to, nutrition; the physiological and sociological effects of alcohol, narcotic, and drug abuse; and the use of tobacco. This requirement must include verification of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that covers infant, child, and adult CPR skills. CPR certification must be completed while enrolled in a teacher preparation program or teaching on a valid credential based on a teacher education program.
3. Complete a course in Computer Education, including instruction in general and specialized skills in the use of computers in educational settings
4. Verify a minimum of two years of experience in a public school (or private school with equivalent status) while holding the Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential, verified by your employer
5. Obtain the formal recommendation for the credential by the college or university where your individualized induction plan was completed (See Table 3 below, for a list of California colleges and universities with Commission-accredited programs.)

Table 3

Institutions of Higher Education in California with Commission-Accredited Education Specialist Level II Programs as of January, 2003 (See key on page 7)

California State University System

<i>CSP, San Luis Obispo</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>CSPU, Pomona</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>CSU, Bakersfield</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I)
<i>CSU, Chico</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I)
<i>CSU, Dominguez Hills</i>	M/M, M/S, ECSE
<i>CSU, Fresno</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I), DHH
<i>CSU, Fullerton</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I), ECSE
<i>CSU, Hayward</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>CSU, Long Beach</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I)
<i>CSU, Los Angeles</i>	M/M, M/S, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>CSU Monterey Bay</i>	MM
<i>CSU, Northridge</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, ECSE
<i>CSU, Sacramento</i>	M/M, M/S, ECSE
<i>CSU, San Bernardino</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>CSU, San Marcos</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>CSU, Stanislaus</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Humboldt State University</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>San Diego State University</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, ECSE
<i>San Francisco State</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>San Jose State University</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, ECSE
<i>Sonoma State University</i>	M/M, M/S

University of California System

<i>UC Riverside</i>	M/M, M/S
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Private Colleges/Universities

<i>Azusa Pacific University</i>	M/M
<i>California Baptist University</i>	M/M
<i>California Lutheran University</i>	M/M, M/M(I), M/S, M/S(I)
<i>Chapman University</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Dominican University of California</i>	M/M
<i>Fresno Pacific University</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Loyola Marymount University</i>	M/M
<i>Mills College</i>	ECSE
<i>Mount St. Mary's College</i>	M/M
<i>National University</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Saint Mary's College</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Santa Clara University</i>	M/M, M/M(I), ECSE, ECSE(I)
<i>University of San Diego</i>	M/M, M/S, ECSE
<i>University of San Francisco</i>	M/M, M/M(I)
<i>University of Southern California</i>	DHH
<i>University of the Pacific</i>	M/M, M/S

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Table 4**Commission Equivalence for Out-of-State Special Education Preparation Programs Completed after January 1, 1997**

The following table identifies Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs in other states that have been determined by the Commission to be equivalent for the purposes of applying for the California Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential in the authorizations indicated. (See key on page 8.)

<i>Alabama</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Alaska</i>	
<i>Arizona</i>	
<i>Arkansas</i>	DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Colorado</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Connecticut</i>	
<i>Delaware</i>	M/M, VI
<i>District of Columbia</i>	
<i>Florida</i>	M/M, DHH, PHI, VI
<i>Georgia</i>	M/M, DHH, PHI, VI
<i>Hawaii</i>	M/M, M/S
<i>Idaho</i>	
<i>Illinois</i>	
<i>Indiana</i>	M/M, DHH, VI
<i>Iowa</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Kansas</i>	
<i>Kentucky</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>Louisiana</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Maine</i>	ECSE
<i>Maryland</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Massachusetts</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>Michigan</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Minnesota</i>	
<i>Mississippi</i>	
<i>Missouri</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI
<i>Montana</i>	M/M
<i>Nebraska</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Nevada</i>	
<i>New Hampshire</i>	M/M, DHH
<i>New Jersey</i>	
<i>New Mexico</i>	M/M
<i>New York</i>	
<i>North Carolina</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>North Dakota</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Ohio</i>	
<i>Oklahoma</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>Oregon</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>Rhode Island</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>South Carolina</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI
<i>South Dakota</i>	M/M, DHH, ECSE
<i>Tennessee</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, PHI, VI, ECSE
<i>Texas</i>	
<i>Utah</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Vermont</i>	
<i>Virginia</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, VI, ECSE
<i>Washington</i>	
<i>West Virginia</i>	
<i>Wisconsin</i>	M/M, M/S, DHH, ECSE
<i>Wyoming</i>	M/M, DHH, VI, ECSE

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KEY

California Title

M/M	<i>Mild/Moderate Disabilities</i>
M/S	<i>Moderate/Severe Disabilities</i>
DHH	<i>Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing</i>
PHI	<i>Physical and Health Impairments</i>
VI	<i>Visual Impairments</i>
ECSE	<i>Early Childhood Special Education</i>
I	<i>Internship</i>

Federal Disability Categories

M/M	<i>Specific learning disability, mental retardation (mild/moderate), serious emotional disturbance</i>
M/S	<i>Mental retardation (moderate/severe), serious emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, autism, deaf-blindness</i>
DHH	<i>Deafness or hearing impairment, deaf-blindness</i>
PHI	<i>Multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury</i>
VI	<i>Deaf-blindness, visual impairment including blindness</i>
ECSE	<i>Birth through pre-kindergarten: mental retardation, serious emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, autism, deaf-blindness</i>

- *There is an on-going review of states that have not yet been determined to have equivalent standards. This chart will be updated on a quarterly basis.*

Table 5

National Board for Professional Teaching Standard Certificate

Early Childhood through Young Adulthood (ages 3 - 18+)

California Certification

Education Specialist Instruction Credential:

Mild/Moderate Disabilities
Moderate/Severe Disabilities
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Physical and Health Impairments
Visual Impairments
Early Childhood Special Education (ages 0 - Pre K)

- *Teachers holding the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in the area of Special Education, will be issued the specific California special education authorization based upon appropriate course work completed in a teacher preparation program. All course work must be submitted on official transcripts from an accredited college or university*